

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/817,364

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Applicant(s)

SHARP, JONATHAN PAUL

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/30/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

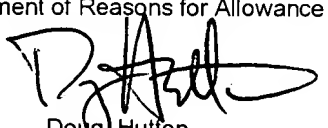
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Doug Hutton
Examiner
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Applicant's Response

In Applicant's *Request for Reconsideration* dated 30 September 2005, Applicant amended Claims 1, 16-18, 27 and 28, added new Claim 10, cancelled Claims 6 and 7, and argued against all objections and rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 2 June 2005.

In light of Applicant's amendments, all objections and rejections previously set forth are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 16-18, 27-29, 32 and 33:

The closest prior art is Ramsay (US 6,230,135). Ramsay discloses a system that allows a user to process a document in both a word processing environment and a Braille environment. The system can transfer documents from one environment to the other and make the necessary conversions during the transmission.

The system also discloses an "*intermediary*" file format in that, anytime a document is stored in a word processor, the document is saved in either ASCII or Unicode. Subsequently, whenever the document is loaded into the word processor in

either the word processor environment or the Braille environment, the "*intermediary*" file format is converted into the appropriate format for viewing the document.

However, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the combination of limitations recited in each of Claims 1, 16-18, 27-29, 32 and 33. More specifically, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method for converting a an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processing environment, comprising storing the electronic document in an "*intermediary*" file format that: 1) stores the document, ***including the document content that is conditional on the environment in which it is being used***, and 2) allows conversion of the "*intermediary*" file format into a "*destination*" file format that ***permits the user to edit the document within either the word processor environment or the Braille environment***, including the content that is conditional on the environment in which it is being used.

Claims 2-15, 19-26, 30 and 31:

These claims are dependent upon Claims 1, 18 or 29, and are thus allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
October 17, 2005



DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100